

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) In combination with an inverted oil filter canister disposed on an oil filter receiving base, A~~an~~ oil containment boot to prevent oil spillage upon removal of ~~an~~the inverted oil filter canister from ~~an~~the oil filter receiving base, said oil containment boot comprising:

a peripheral side wall defining an open top end and an open bottom end, said peripheral side wall extending upwardly a distance above the oil filter receiving base such that at least a portion of the inverted oil filter canister disposed on the oil filter receiving base is surrounded by said peripheral side wall;

a restraint proximate said open bottom end for sealingly securing said open bottom end of the oil containment boot operably over ~~an~~the oil filter receiving base;

whereby, ~~in use, said peripheral side wall extends upwardly a distance above said oil filter receiving base such that at least a portion of said inverted oil filter canister received in said oil filter receiving base is surrounded by said peripheral side wall such that upon removal of said the~~ oil filter canister from ~~said~~the oil filter receiving base through said open top end, any oil in ~~said the~~ inverted oil filter canister is contained within said peripheral side wall thereby preventing oil spillage.

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Original) The oil containment boot of claim 1 wherein said restraint includes a clamp.

4. (Original) The oil containment boot of claim 1 wherein said restraint includes an adhesive.

5. (Original) The oil containment boot of claim 1 wherein said restraint includes an elastomeric band.

6. (Original) The oil containment boot of claim 1 wherein said restraint includes an elastomeric portion of said peripheral side wall defining said open bottom end.

7. (Currently amended) The oil containment boot of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of said open top end is larger in size substantially greater in diameter than said open bottom end.

8. (Original) The oil containment boot of claim 1 wherein said peripheral side wall is moveable between a first oil containment position and a second folded position.

9. (Currently amended) A method of minimizing oil spillage during removal of a used inverted oil filter canister from an oil filter receiving base, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a used inverted oil filter canister disposed on an oil filter receiving base;

(b) providing an oil containment boot, said boot comprising a peripheral side wall defining an open top end and an open bottom end;

(c) placing said open bottom end of said oil containment boot over said used inverted oil filter canister;

(d) sealingly securing said open bottom end of said boot operably over said oil filter receiving base such that said peripheral side wall of said boot extends a distance above said oil filter receiving base and surrounds at least a portion of said used inverted oil filter canister disposed therein;

(e) threadably removing said used inverted oil filter canister from said oil filter receiving base through said open top end of said boot;

whereby upon removal of said used inverted oil filter canister from said oil filter receiving base, any oil in said used inverted oil filter canister is contained within said peripheral side wall of said boot sealingly secured operably over said oil filter receiving base thereby preventing oil spillage.

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said step of sealingly securing said open bottom end of said boot operably over said oil filter receiving base includes clamping said open bottom end of said boot operably over said oil filter receiving base.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said step of sealingly securing said open bottom end of said boot operably over said oil filter receiving base includes adhering said open bottom end of said boot operably over said oil filter oil filter receiving base.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said step of sealingly securing said open bottom end of said boot operably over said oil filter receiving base includes providing an elastomeric band to bias said open bottom end of said boot operably over said oil filter receiving base.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said step of sealingly securing said open bottom end of said boot over said oil filter receiving base includes providing an elastomeric portion of said peripheral side wall defining said open bottom end to bias said open bottom end of said boot operably over said oil filter receiving base.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein at least a portion of said open top end of said boot is larger in size substantially greater in diameter than said open bottom end.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of moving said peripheral side wall between a first oil containment position during removal of said used inverted oil filter canister and a second folded position after installing a new inverted oil filter canister.